REMARKS

The specification has been amended to reflect the national stage status.

In addition, the claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies in order to reduce the PTO filing fee.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi HIRAI et al.

Bv:

Warren M .Cheek, Jr.

Registration No. 33,367 Attorney for Applicants

WMC/dlk Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 April 26, 2005